

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03614 261051Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 INR-10 INRE-00 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8496

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3614

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: MESSAGE FROM LANDRUM BOLLING

LANDRUM BOLLING ASKED US TO PASS THE FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL
MESSAGE TO YOU:

BEGIN QUOTE:

IT SEEMS UNWISE TO TRY TO TELEPHONE BUT I FEEL A RESPON-
SIBILITY TO PASS ON TO YOU WORD OF THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE
SENSE OF CONERN AMONG ISRAELI DOVES AND MODERATES PLUS
WEST BANK ARABS. THEY FEAR MONDALE VISIT COULD TURN INTO
ANOTHER EXCUSE FOR BEGIN TO MISREAD AMERICAN PURPOSES
AND CONSISTENCY OF WILL. THEY PRAY THIS WILL NOT BE
ANOTHER OCCASION FOR OVER-POLITE REASSURANCES WHICH CAN
ONLY BE DISTORTED AND MADE ULTIMATELY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.
BEGIN WILL SEIZE EVERY STRAW TO SHOW HIS INTERNAL CRITICS
INCLUDING FELLOW CABINENT MEMBERS THAT THERE IS NO CONFRON-
TATION WITH U.S., THAT HIS HANG-TOUGH POLICIES ARE WINNING,
THAT HE STILL HAS MASTERY OF AMERICAN CONNECTION. NAHUM
GOLDMAN WHOM I SAW IN PARIS FIRST EXPRESSED THIS FEAR. I
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WAS AMAZED HOW WIDELY IT IS ECHOED IN ISRAEL. GOLDMAN SAYS
THING LIKE AUFBAU INTERVIEW MAKE IT EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO
INFLUENCE MODERATE AND WAVERING EUROPEAN JEWS AND ISRAELIS
TO SUPPORT U.S. POLICY OR TO SEE THAT THERE IS A CONSISTENT
POLICY. MY OWN OBSERVATION IS THAT THERE IS MOST SERIOUS,
HONEST, COMPREHENSIVE ISRAELI DEBATE OVER ISSUES IN TEN YEARS--
AT ALL LEVELS AND AMONG ALL POLITICAL GROUPINGS.

ONE ANALYSIS: THREE CLASSES OF DOVES--SIX OPEN DOVES LIKE
ELIAV, FIFTEEN CLOSET DOVES IN AND OUT LIKE EBAN, DEEP
FREEZE DOVES OF WHOM AT LEAST TWENTY IN KNESSET AND FOUR TO
SIX IN CABINET. DESPOTE BEGIN'S MAJORITY BACKING ON KEY ISSUES,
THE SHATTERING RE-EXAMINATION OF OLD BELIEFS IS WELL
UNDER WAY. THAT CONSTRUCTIVE PROCESS, SAY SOME ISRAELIS,
COULD BE ABORTED BY FALTERING, TOO NICE GESTURES FROM
WASHINGTON.
I PASS ALONG HOPE OF MODERATES THAT ELIAV OR SOMEONE LIKE
HIM BE INVITED TO MEET WITH MONDALE.
(SIGNED) SANDRUM BOLLING

END QUOTE.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

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TAGS: PINT, IS, (MONDALE, WALTER F), (BOOLING, LANDRUM)
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